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REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER FROM FRESNO
PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING IMAGES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that WAYNE EUGENE KINZEL, 30, of Fresno, California pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to one count of possessing visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. KINZEL has agreed to a prison sentence of 120 months followed by a term of supervised release of 180 months.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, KINZEL admitted, as part of a plea agreement, that from January 2006 through July 26, 2006 he knowingly possessed visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of prepubescent minors.

The case was the result of a joint investigation by agents of the Fresno office of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit. The case is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood (PSC). PSC was established to increase federal prosecution of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the number of internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, United States Attorney Offices have teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the internet, and to educate the public and children of safe internet use, thereby reducing the chance they may fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

KINZEL will be sentenced on March 19, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. He faces a maximum prison term of 20 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a lifetime term of supervised release. KINZEL is subject to a mandatory prison term of at least 10 years because he was convicted on May 7, 1997, in the California Superior Court, Fresno County, for a violation of California Penal Code § 288(a), for lewd and lascivious acts with a minor under age 14. Since his arrest, KINZEL has been detained in federal custody as a flight risk, and as a danger to the community.

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